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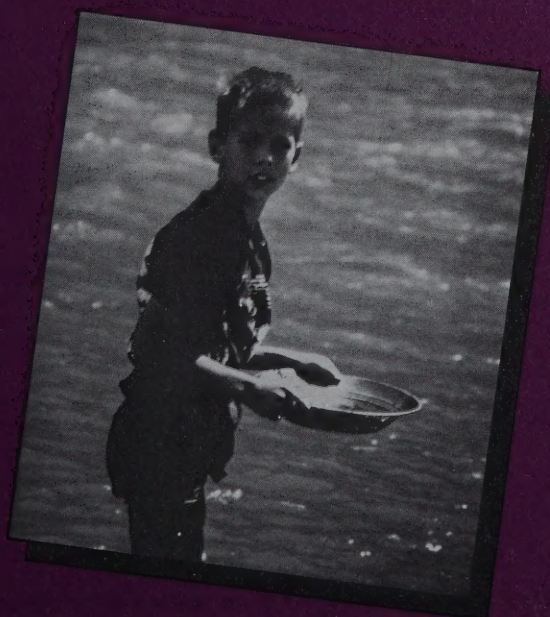
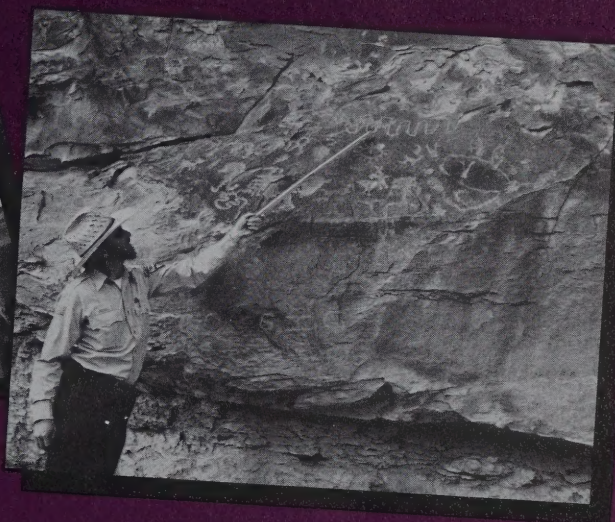
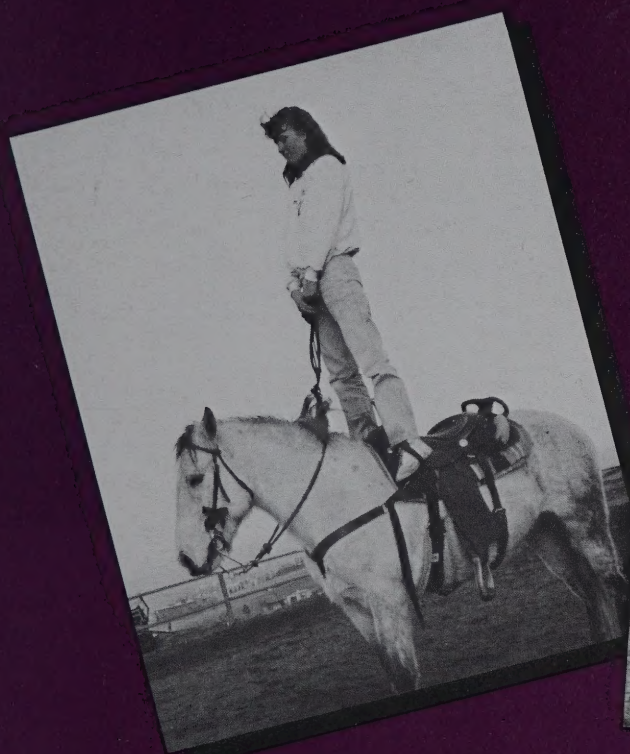


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Bureau of Land Management

The General Land Office and the U.S. Grazing Service were merged in 1946 to create the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM administers those lands still remaining from the original public domain. Of the 1.8 billion acres of public land originally acquired by the United States, two-thirds went to individuals, industries, and the states. Of that remaining, much was set aside for national forests, wildlife refuges, national parks and monuments, and other public purposes. Today, BLM manages over 270 million acres—about one-eighth of the nation.

Thirty years after BLM's formation, Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) mandating that public lands be managed for multiple use and sustained yield. BLM has responsibility for managing the nation's public lands and resources in a combination of ways that best serve the needs of the American people. Traditional uses of the public lands have been grazing, timber, and minerals and energy development. Current administration has put emphasis on increasing BLM's role in other areas, such as recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness, and natural scenic, scientific and cultural values.

The Bureau of Land Management is organized in four levels: the Washington, D.C. Office, State Offices, District Offices, and Resource Area Offices. In addition to providing information to Congress, personnel in the Washington Office provide policy and budget guidance to BLM's State Directors.

Personnel in State Offices interact with state governments and legislators. State Directors have responsibility for administering national policy, providing specific guidance on implementing laws and regulations, and monitoring and evaluating progress within the state.

BLM Colorado has four District Offices, located at Craig, Grand Junction, Montrose, and Cañon City. District Managers manage major projects and resources within their district, and provide administrative and staff support to Resource Area Offices.

Resource Area Offices are geographically located closest to public lands. Personnel at this level do the on-the-ground work, and are available for local issues involving access rights, firewood permits, grazing permits, and a host of other issues.



A Fall cattle drive along the Shelf Road is one of the many uses of the scenic and historic Gold Belt Tour National Back Country Byway near Cañon City.

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Minerals

Because BLM has subsurface minerals management responsibility beneath national forests, Indian reservations, and some private lands, BLM manages 27.3 million acres in the minerals program in Colorado, over three times its surface acreage responsibility.

Mineral development is an important land use within the BLM's multiple-use program. Mineral exploration and production on public land involves three distinct systems: leasing, location, and material sales.

Leasing

Oil and gas, coal, geothermal, sodium, and other similar minerals are available through mineral leasing. Leases are issued for specific periods of time, with the lessee paying rental fees and royalties on the minerals produced. These minerals are generally leased through competitive sales. Applications to conduct exploration and production-related activities are reviewed to ensure environmental protection, conformance with land use plans, and mineral resource conservation. Inspections are performed to assure that operations are properly carried out and that all production is accounted for.

Compared to production from onshore federal lands in other states, Colorado ranks first in carbon dioxide, third in natural gas, fourth in oil, fourth in coal, and fifth in natural liquids. Although numerous hot springs and geothermal features exist in Colorado, no commercial activity has yet occurred on public lands. The Piceance Basin in western Colorado contains the largest deposits of high grade oil shale in the United States. Although considerable development work has been done, no commercial operations currently exist. This area also contains major nahcolite (sodium) resources; initial operations to develop this resource have begun.

Minerals Location

Location involves minerals like gold and silver and is administered under the General Mining Law of 1872. Miners locate claims and pay annual filing fees. If a valuable deposit is found, the claim may be patented and title obtained to both the mineral and surface land. The mining law encourages companies to self-initiate exploration and development and has been successful in providing domestic sources for many critical and strategic minerals. BLM reviews applications to conduct exploration and development to ensure that operations do not unnecessarily or unduly affect the environment or other multiple uses. Inspections are performed to assure that surface management requirements are carried out and that timely reclamation occurs.

The 1872 Mining Law provides the opportunity for exploration and development of mineral deposits on public lands. BLM records all mining claims filed on public lands and receives affidavits of assessment work and other documents, thus providing a central location for all Colorado mining activity records for federal mineral estates. Panning for gold continues to be popular in the state.

Material Sales

Common sand, gravel, and other construction and landscaping materials are available for sale at fair market value to individuals or through free use permits to government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Lands and Renewable Resources

Lands and Realty

BLM is involved with land exchanges and withdrawals, issuing rights-of-way across public lands, and granting leases of public lands under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. These land activities support BLM initiatives, such as Recreation 2000 and Fish and Wildlife 2000, and increase legal access to public lands. BLM issues rights-of-way for natural gas pipelines, access roads, communications sites, and power lines. Examples of Recreation and Public Purposes Act authorizations across Colorado include golf courses, schools, county maintenance shops, fire departments, and shooting ranges.

Planning

Resource management planning provides the basis for evaluating, deciding, and communicating public land uses. Using the concepts of multiple use and sustained yield, the BLM seeks to maximize resource values for both present and future generations. The land use plans prepared by BLM are called Resource Management Plans (RMPs). They are prepared by Resource Area Offices and take about three years to complete. Opportunities for public involvement are continuous during development and implementation of the RMP. Decisions in a RMP are designed to guide and control future land or resource management actions and are designed to be implemented over a 10- to 20-year period.

Colorado has been the BLM leader in resource management planning. Glenwood Springs was the first RMP in the nation. The Glenwood Springs and Kremmling RMPs were among six "pilots" that served as guides for all subsequent RMPs in BLM. The Piceance Basin RMP pioneered the use of the automated geographic information system (GIS) in BLM planning. In addition, the commonly accepted method for documenting plan maintenance and amendments originated in Colorado.

Forestry

BLM has 2.9 million acres of forested land in Colorado. Most of this land, 2.3 million acres, is woodland. Lands referred to as woodland include juniper/pinyon acreages, wilderness study areas, and areas that are inaccessible or not cost-effective for timber harvest. Only 600,000 acres are available for commercial use (sawtimber, firewood, Christmas trees, etc.).

Rangeland Management

Rangeland management resulted when the first problems of improper grazing were recognized nearly 100 years ago. Most concepts of the early days were viewed from the perspective of the livestock industry. Today, BLM rangeland managers consider a multitude of resources and resource uses on public lands, from wild horses, wildlife habitat and watershed, to recreation, wilderness, and mined land reclamation. Issues involving resource and resource uses have become more complex, requiring innovative management techniques.

In addition to providing economic benefits to rural communities, livestock grazing is now considered a means to accomplish resource recovery and improvement. Properly managed livestock grazing is an effective tool for improving vegetation, much like mowing a yard or pruning a fruit tree properly can stimulate the plants for more vigorous growth. In order to ensure health of the range resource, BLM places a high priority on matching resource uses to the capabilities of the land.

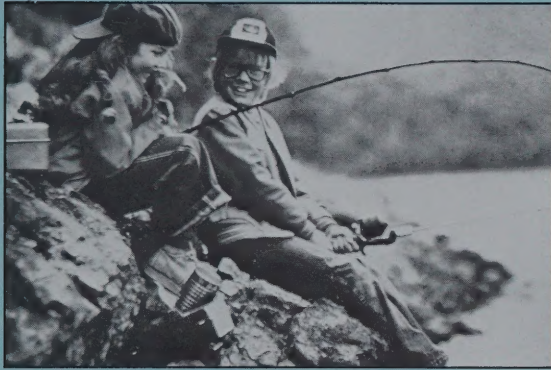
Wild Horses

Colorado has four wild horse herd management areas: Piceance-East Douglas Creek west of Meeker, Sand Wash in the extreme northwestern part of the state, Little Bookcliffs northeast of Grand Junction, and Spring Creek southwest of Montrose. BLM manages these herds as permanent residents in these four areas. Since the horses have few natural predators, the herd sizes can expand beyond the capability of the range to support them. BLM then rounds up the excess animals and makes them available for adoption by qualified private citizens.

Fish and Wildlife

BLM's public lands provide habitat for over 600 species of fish and wildlife, and 100 special status plants and animals. Habitat improvement continues to be a BLM priority. Projects include prescribed burns and roller-chopping of sagebrush stands to enhance plant vigor and production. "Watchable Wildlife," a national multi-agency initiative encouraging citizens to view wildlife in their environment, is a popular and growing program in Colorado.

Colorado's public lands have 1,500 miles of fishable streams.



Wilderness

In 1990, BLM completed the final Wilderness Environmental Impact Statements, which concluded the study of 800,000 acres in 57 areas for wilderness designation. In 1991, the Secretary of the Interior recommended to the President of the United States that approximately 396,000 acres, or slightly more than 50 percent of the study acreage, be formally designated as wilderness.

Cultural Resources

The BLM Colorado cultural resources program is diverse and encompasses prehistoric sites dating from 12,000 years ago. There are more than 50,000 recorded prehistoric sites on Colorado's public lands. In addition, there are numerous nationally significant historic sites in Colorado that represent mining, transportation, and western settlement. Colorado has six "Adventures in the Past" sites/tours available to the public.

The Anasazi Heritage Center, near the town of Dolores, houses several million artifacts, and includes exhibit areas and a laboratory for studying prehistory. The Heritage Center is the center of the BLM's Heritage Education Project, which is designed to provide the public with information about the value of our heritage.



In addition to archaeological and historic resources, Colorado is the location for several internationally known paleontological quarries. Garden Park is one of the most significant localities for dinosaurs in the world, while the Rabbit Valley site has yielded several new species of dinosaurs.

Field Student from the University of Wyoming excavating and studying a Bison Kill Site north of Kremmling, Colorado.

Mountain bikers
take a break along
Kokopelli's Trail
near Grand
Junction, Colorado.

Recreation

BLM Colorado has outstanding recreational opportunities. In addition to the unique diversity and the wide open spaces of the public lands, BLM administers 58 developed recreation sites, 190 miles of hiking trails, 350 miles of mountain biking trails, and two National Back Country Byways. BLM also manages outstanding river recreation on the Arkansas, Colorado, Yampa, Gunnison, and Dolores rivers.

Riparian Areas

BLM Colorado manages nearly 47,000 acres of riparian areas associated with over 5,500 miles of perennial intermittent streams, plus about 11,000 acres of wetlands associated with marshes, seeps, and springs. Riparian areas, which are the single most important habitat for fish and wildlife in the West, are the areas of vegetation near streams, springs, lakes, and other sources of water.



Soil, Air, Water

Soil, water, and air represent the basic resources upon which all resources and uses depend. BLM protects soils by preventing or reducing wind and water erosion and by avoiding developments in critical or fragile soil areas. Water resources are protected by identifying and quantifying claims to water on public lands, recording reserved water rights, and obtaining nonreserved rights under the State's administrative procedures. BLM protects the air quality of public lands by ensuring authorized activities comply with State air quality standards.

Operations

Cadastral Survey

BLM is the legal land surveying agency for the U.S. Government. The Land Ordinance Act of 1785, passed by the Continental Congress, created the basis for our land tenure system and limited the official land survey authority to one agency. The Cadastral Survey Program monuments and documents the legal boundaries between public and private lands for both the surface and the mineral estates. Equipment and techniques have changed in the last 200 years, but the agency's responsibilities and legal requirements have not.

Fire Management

BLM joins with other Federal agencies to suppress wildfires on public lands nationwide. In addition to fighting wildfires, BLM conducts prescribed burns to achieve planned resource management objectives in range, wildlife, forestry, and other programs. BLM personnel also promote fire prevention messages through various educational programs.

Engineering

In Colorado, BLM owns approximately 98 buildings located on 28 administrative sites and 61 recreation sites. BLM is also responsible for maintaining a transportation system consisting of about 4,000 miles of roads, 400 miles of trails, and 10 bridges. BLM engineers work closely with resource specialists, local governments, and volunteers to construct and maintain needed roads, buildings, recreation sites, dams, trails, and water developments.

Support Functions

Automation

BLM's national information resources initiative is designed to collect, store, and provide rapid retrieval of public land information to the public and private sectors.

Law Enforcement/Resource Protection

BLM is responsible for protecting the valuable resources found on Colorado's public lands and for enforcing public land laws. BLM special agents and rangers work closely with local, state, and other federal law enforcement agencies. Rangers patrol public lands and assist public land users by offering emergency assistance, providing information, and promoting a positive land use ethic. Special Agents conduct investigations to solve land use crimes.

Public Affairs

The public affairs staff serves as a link between the public and BLM. They answer questions and provide information on BLM's mission and accomplishments through news releases, publications, newsletters, exhibits, and special events. Other responsibilities include maintaining positive relationships with Congressional representatives, other agencies, and special interest groups.

Volunteers

BLM Colorado's volunteer program strives to match skills and interests of individuals or groups with project needs. Examples of volunteer projects include maintaining campsites, building trails, conducting wildlife surveys, serving as interpretive guides, planting trees, and providing office support. Volunteers are selected without regard to gender, race, age, or handicap.

Equal Employment Opportunity

BLM continually seeks to hire the best people for the job. BLM participates in a variety of career fairs and events across the state, encouraging students to consider a career in natural resource management.

Personnel

Colorado BLM has 550 employees and 18 offices statewide (office locations on back). In addition, seasonal employees are hired to help fight wildfires, assist cadastral survey crews, and complete other field work.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT COLORADO

COLORADO STATE OFFICE

Bob Moore, State Director
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WESTERN SLOPE FIRE COORDINATION CENTER

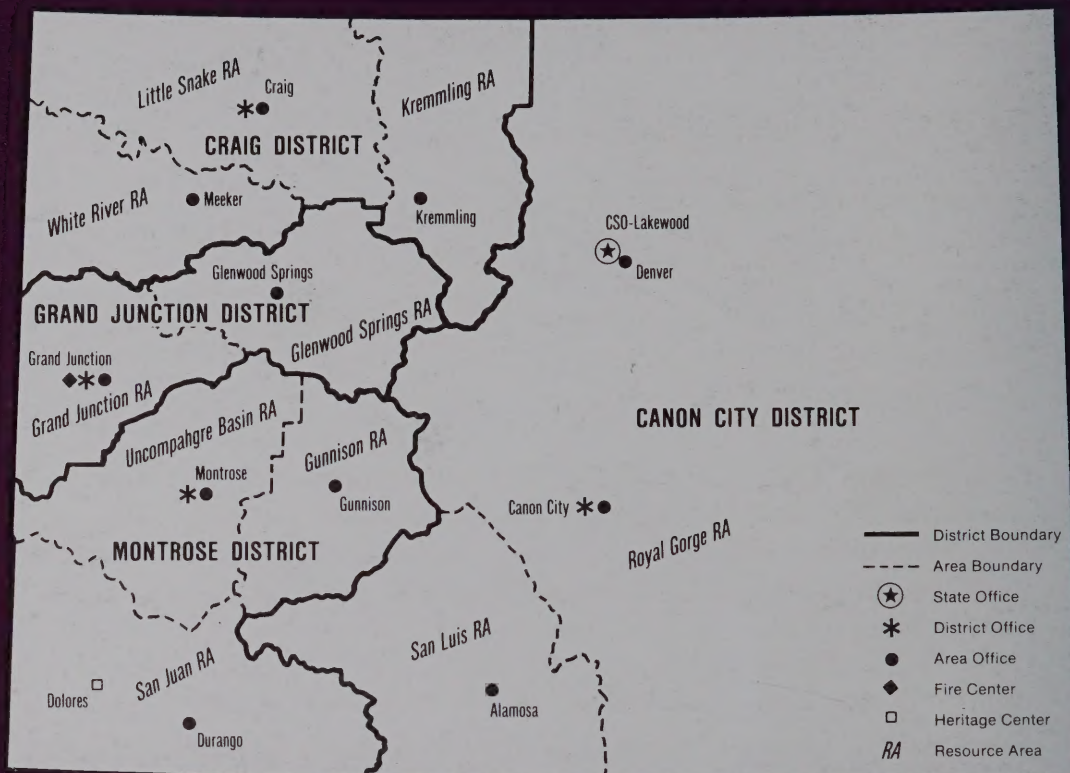
Paul Hefner, Fire Mgmt. Specialist
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ANASAZI HERITAGE CENTER

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(Detached office managed by
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ENGINEERING FIELD OFFICE

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Grand Junction Resource Area

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San Juan Resource Area

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